MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 JULY 1982

Lebanon

Military Situation -- The IDF attacked Syrian and "terrorist" targets along the cease-fire line in the Al-Biqa' region and subsequently launched air attacks against PLO targets in Beirut, according to announcements by the IDF spokesman reported by IDF radio during the afternoon of 22 July. Noting that the Israeli attacks were in response to repeated cease-fire violations by "terrorist" squads operating from within the Syrian lines, the spokesman said the IDF stopped shooting in the eastern sector during the evening. Two IDF soldiers were killed and two more were injured in the battles with the Syrians, which led to no change in positions, Jerusalem radio reported. A Syrian military spokesman claimed that Israeli losses included 24 tanks destroyed but admitted that the Syrians lost 16 tanks, 2 dead and 14 wounded, according to Damascus radio. Israeli warplanes raided Syrian targets in Barr Ilyas, southeast of Shtawrah, and Ba'labakk, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

In Beirut the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces military spokesman said 62 people were killed or wounded in three Israeli air raids on the Western sector, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported. A subsequent radio report raised the estimated casualty toll to 182 people and claimed two IDF tanks were destroyed in artillery exchanges in and around Beirut. The capital was calm early on 23 July despite limited exchanges of fire in the southern suburbs during the night, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

Israeli Position -- The IDF operation was a warning to the Syrians and the "terrorists" to cease activities against the IDF and reinstate the cease-fire, Israeli Government sources cited by IDF radio announced. The operation was not intended to terminate the political process, the sources stressed, but Israel has no intention of conducting political negotiations while military attrition is taking place. Noting that the IDF did not use all its power in the fighting, government sources also emphasized that if the "terrorists" continue to violate the cease-fire, the IDF will react with all of its power, according to Jerusalem radio. Syria is responsible for any attack against Israeli soldiers launched from territory it controls, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir said in an radio interview. Earlier, Prime Minister Menahem Begin conveyed a firm warning to the Syrians through the United States, according to MA'ARIV.

In a 21 July dinner speech at the Knesset, Begin announced that after the conclusion of the fighting in Lebanon, he will invite Jordanian King Husayn for peace talks in Jerusalem or Switzerland, YEDI'OT AHARONOT reported. While a diplomatic source claimed that Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir recently met with King Husayn in Switzerland, an Israeli Government source merely revealed that Shamir held secret talks with "a leading figure" from a country that has no diplomatic relations with Israel, AFP reported.

PLO Position -- Israel will pay a high price for expanding the scope of the war, a Voice of Palestine commentary warned in the wake of the new Israeli air raids. Meanwhile, according to another report by the radio, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat welcomed Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's proposals on disengagement and for an international conference on Lebanon.

Before the renewed fighting in Beirut, a WAFA statement carried by the Voice of Palestine announced that the PLO is ready to accept a new UN Security Council resolution that emphasizes "the legitimate national rights" of the Palestinians to self-determination while also "affirming the principles epitomized in the UN resolutions." WAFA restated the PLO's readiness to adhere to UN resolutions, including UN General Assembly Resolutions 181, 194 and 236. "If we are in fact proceeding toward a new phase, you will find the PLO ready to study this phase if it will help the Palestinians accede to their rights," WAFA concluded.

Meanwhile, sources close to the Palestinians revealed that the PLO is confident that a peaceful settlement will be reached, basing their assessment on the outcome of the U.S.-Arab "agreement" reached in Washington on the PLO's withdrawal from Beirut, Beirut radio reported.

Egyptian stance, Soviet Message -- An Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman denounced Israel's new "unjustified aggression" in Lebanon, Cairo radio reported. Egypt has decided to intensify its efforts to achieve an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, according to a 23 July AL-AHRAM report cited by MENA. AL-AHRAM also noted that the Soviet Union has sent an urgent message to Cairo outlining the Soviet stand on the Lebanese crisis.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces mounted a three-pronged attack across the Iraqi border in the Basra sector, destroying a total of 372 armored personnel carriers and tanks -- 16 of which were T-72 models -- and killing or wounding 2,100 enemy soldiers, an Iranian Armed Forces communique carried by Tehran radio reported. An IRNA report on the offensive claimed that the Iranians infiltrated 7 km inside Iraq and dispersed four enemy divisions before returning to their previous positions. Iraqi planes bombed Ahvaz on 21 July killing 9 civilians; in Ilam bombings killed or wounded 70 and the toll in Hamadan reached over 100, IRNA reported.

An Iraqi Armed Forces communique carried by Baghdad radio admitted that the Iranians launched an attack across the border near Basra and that fierce fighting took place. At first the Iranians penetrated 4 km inside Iraqi territory but the Iraqis launched counteroffensives on all fronts and the effort to contain the invading forces was a "splendid success," the communique said. All the Iranian forces in this attack were either driven back or eliminated, INA reported citing military sources. A military spokepokesman cited by Baghdad radio said 2,235 Iranians were killed and 9 tanks were destroyed in the abortive attack.

Meanwhile, a Tehran radio commentary denied that the Iranian attack on Iraq is destabilizing for Middle East security and reaffirmed that Iran's goals are only to "liberate" Iraq from the Ba'thists and Jerusalem from the Zionists.

Iran

In a sermon delivered at Tehran University on the occasion of the 'Id al-Fitr, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i commented on the war with Iraq and the Lebanon crisis, Tehran radio reported. He said support for Iraq by other Gulf states serves only the interests of the superpowers and he warned that any attempt to support Iraqi President Saddam Husayn by any Gulf state would be met with "decisive" reaction from the Iranian people. He stressed that if the United States chooses to use the Persian Gulf area as a base against Iran, the Iranian nation will respond in a "crushing manner."

Khamene'i regretted the lack of action taken by most Islamic governments over Lebanon and said only Iran has taken the proper steps by sending forces there and explaining its diplomatic position. He concluded that the PLO must resist the invasion and not leave Beirut.

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RELIGIOUS LEADERS URGE SUPPORT FOR ARMED FORCES

LD222002 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Here is a message from the Department of Islamic Affairs and the Supreme Council of the Ulema and religious leaders of the DRA to the armed forces and to all the Muslim and faithful people of Afghanistan:

The courageous troops and heroic officers of the Afghan Army: We hear and read about your continuing heroism and victories against the enemies of the revolution, of the religion, of the homeland and of the people of Afghanistan, on the radio, television and other mass media.

The Muslim people of Afghanistan are proud to have heroic and courageous sons like you who, with pride and courage, are performing your sacred military service in the ranks of the armed forces. You have pledged yourselves to the complete extinction of the counterrevolutionary elements -- these enemies of the honor and grace of the people of Afghanistan -- and at this very moment are serving under the proud (?banner) of the DRA. All the religious leaders and ulema raise the hands in prayer before Almighty God and we pray that He will keep you in His care and bestow upon you still more victories.

Mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers: The DRA Department of Islamic Affairs, the Supreme Council of the Ulema and the religious leaders are addressing you. We sincerely congratulate you too because of the victories of your sons serving in the armed forces. We ask you to encourage and assist your sons to continue their service in the ranks of the armed forces until complete and final victory, because your sons, in the ranks of the DRA Armed Forces, are defending the interests of [word indistinct] of Afghanistan, the interests of the workers, peasants and other toilers of the country. Your sons are defending the April Revolution and its new development stage as a result of which the toiling people of our country were freed from the oppressive regime of feudalists, money-lenders and arrogant, godless people.

In our country, where right wins over wrong, where the counterrevolutionaries -- these slanderous mask-wearers of Islam -- are going through the last agonies of death under the fatal blows of the heroic Afghan Army, sacred service in the armed forces is the duty of every Muslim individual in Afghanistan, because we ulema and the religious leaders of Afghanistan completely believe that our people are behind this duty and are encouraging their sons to continue the sacred service in the Armed Forces of the DRA. By performing this noble and patriotic deed, on the one hand they are making Almighty God happy and, on the other hand, they are performing their duties before the homeland, the people and the revolution.

The Muslim and toiling people of Afghanistan should know that indifference to the enemies of the faith and homeland, indifference to those who have hypocritically worn the mask of Islam but kill our innocent people, massacre our women, old men, youths and children, plunder the property and belongings of our people, destroy bridges and roads, set fire to schools and mosques and even have no mercy on the holy Koran, which is a book from Almighty God and a guidance to the Muslims of the world, indifference to all this is not (?admissible), and being indifferent to the crimes of the rebels means being a party to their crimes.

We, the religious leaders and ulema of the Islamic Affairs Department, the Supreme Council of the Ulema and religious leaders of the DRA, consider the best way to fight against the rebels, against those alien to Islam, is to serve in the ranks of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan.

The religious leaders and ulema of the Department of Islamic Affairs, the Supreme Council of the DRA Ulema and religious leaders ask you patriotic, toiling and Muslim compatriots to join hands and devote all your strength to broadening and strengthening your national army.

Success verily comes from God.

GANDHI INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

BK230654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] The prime minister has said India cannot have any other way than democracy. In an interview with a magazine released in Washington, Mrs Gandhi said: We believe in democracy and we have been brought up with those ideals.

Referring to her coming visit to the United States, Mrs Gandhi said she wants to create a better understanding with America. There is no reason why friendship with the Soviet Union should come in the way of friendship with the United States, China or anybody else. She pointed out that Washington's friendship with Pakistan does not mean that it cannot be friendly with India.

The prime minister declared that we are certainly not anti-United States in any sense of the word. There are, however, major international and economic policy differences between Washington and New Delhi.

In another interview with the Associated Press and four U.S. daily newspaper correspondents, Mrs Gandhi said it is important that Reagan and the American people should have a more realistic picture of what India is and what India stands for. On American supply of arms to Pakistan, the prime minister said Washington is well aware of India's strong opposition. She hoped for improved relations with Pakistan and said all the initiatives for peace and friendship have been from India's side.

PRESS VIEWS UPCOMING GANDHI VISIT TO U.S.

EXPRESS on Soviet 'Signals'

BK230749 New Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 15 Jul 82 p 5

[Editorial: "Wrong Signals"]

[Text] Mrs Gandhi's impending visit to Washington has set dovecotes aflutter in places other than the two countries whose leaders are formally to meet at the summit after many years.

A Soviet journal, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, has in an article suggested that Pakistan is unlikely to test a nuclear bomb before it secures F-16 fighter bombers from the United States. The timing of this article on the eve of the Indo-U.S. summit meeting may not be fortuitous. It could be an indirect reminder from Moscow that India faces problems nearer home and that these are likely to be fuelled by the promised American deliveries of F-16s to Pakistan. A few days earlier there were reports of a seminar in the Soviet Union in which participants wondered whether the Indian public sector was anything more than state capitalism.

Maybe these statements are intended to signal Mrs Gandhi that she should be wary of American (or Western) economic and political blandishments as both security and socialism might be at stake. Such an inference may not be far-fetched because Soviet commentators were among those that warned India earlier this year against the pitfalls of entering into a no-war pact with Pakistan and have on occasion also advised caution about normalising relations with China. The Soviet Union is itself realistic enough to negotiate or resume talks with China, Pakistan, the United States and others as and when it considers it necessary and desirable to do so. But it must be rather uncertain of its relations with India and of its position in this part of Asia if it is so fretful every time India moves to mend its fences.

This knee-jerk reaction is similar to that of some elements in the United States that are prone to see an Indian tilt towards the Soviet Union. Responding to such a question Mrs Gandhi recently told the American magazine NEWSWEEK: "We are friends of the Soviet Union. We do not approve of their system; we are not communists."

"But we all have to live in the same world, and the greatest danger to us all is conflict or confrontation." The same compulsions apply in reordering India's relations with Pakistan, China and the United States. This is what nonalignment and peaceful coexistence are about.

HINDU on Expectations

BK221052 Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jul 82 p 1

[By G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, July 13 -- The U.S. ambassador to India, Mr Harry Barnes, left tonight for Washington to prepare the ground for the prime minister's visit and set the tone for the official level discussions on various aspects of Indo-American relations before her arrival for talks with President Reagan and his principal colleagues.

The foreign secretary, Mr M.K. Rasgotra, the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr Natwar Singh, and the additional secretary in charge of economic affairs in the prime minister's secretariat, Mr Arjun Sen Gupta, are leaving next week for these preparatory discussions in Washington.

There has been some indication from the U.S. side that the new Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, would be visiting Delhi later this year to take part in the much postponed ministerial meeting of the Indo-American joint commission. The U.S. President, Mr Ronald Reagan, also might pay a return visit to India some time later in the course of a quick swing through several Pacific and Asian nations.

The prime minister is going to Washington at a time when there are fairly good prospects for a new opening in Indo-American relations. There has been a noticeable change in the attitudes of the two governments toward each other, although they continue to adhere to their respective policy positions.

The more immediate objective of this dialogue is to restore the missing element of warmth, without attempting a convergence of ideas or interests at this stage. The realization that the two countries have a good deal in common despite their recurring differences can serve as a useful starting point for giving more positive direction to Indo-American relations, according to well placed observers here.

The main cause of friction between India and the U.S. is the frequent confusion created by the constant overlapping of their differing concepts of bilateral, regional and global developments. The Indian intention on this occasion is to compartmentalize these issues, so that the two heads of government can review them with some degree of detachment, without letting the persisting differences in one sphere impinge on relations in other spheres.

It is argued that Mr Reagan and Mrs Gandhi can continue to disagree on some issues, while establishing a degree of accord on others of equal importance. It has also been tacitly agreed in advance that the two leaders are not meeting to settle any specific differences, but to generate a measure of mutual understanding of their policies and perceptions.

The prime minister is not going to Washington to press for a revision of the U.S. nuclear policy, suspension of military aid to Pakistan, withdrawal of its naval forces from the Indian Oceean, acceptance of the new sea law or reopening of global negotiations. Nor will President Reagan attempt to pressure her into placating Pakistan, adopt a tougher stance on Pakistan, withdraw the recognition of Kampuchea or move away from Vietnam.

The Indian and American officials who are actively associated with the preparations for Mrs Gandhi's visit to Washington feel that there is a vast grey area in Indo-American relations where it is possible to view their differences with a better appreciation of each others compulsions. The mere absence of an identity of views on problems of primary or secondary interest need not deter them from arriving at some accommodation, if only to avert a chain reaction of misunderstanding in other concomitant areas where they could usefully work together in common interest.

The whole accent is now on avoiding unnecessary irritations as far as possible, while the two countries continue to evolve a viable basis for better relations. The U.S. cannot ignore the reality that by virtue of its size, stability and strategic location, India is destined to play an increasingly important role in Asia. India, in turn, cannot afford to pretend that the U.S. has no legitimate interests in this region.

The forthcoming visit of Mrs Gandhi is thus seen as a starting point for a fresh effort to establish better Indo-American understanding not as something that is going to produce startling results. It is for this reason that the government has been privately cautioning against undue expectations, while the preparatory work goes on at various levels for this visit.

Apart from the changed attitude of Mr Reagan himself, who has lately been paying more attention to India, the appointment of Mr Shultz as secretary of state has been welcomed in Delhi, because of his known interest in closer Indo-American economic cooperation. The recent shift in India's policy in regard to foreign investment is viewed by the U.S. as a promising development.

But here again Mrs Gandhi will try to dispel the impression that India is throwing its doors open to the multinationals as part of this policy of liberalisation. She wants to make it quite clear that the new approach is to adopt a selective attitude and allow foreign investment in areas where India needs advanced technological assistance.

HERALD HAILS ZAIL SINGH'S ELECTION AS PRESIDENT

BK191654 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 17 Jul 82 p 2

[Editorial: "Historic Victory"]

[Text] As expected, Mr Zail Singh has won hands down in the presidential election. What is remarkable is the record margin of his victory, which shows that he not only got the solid block of Congress (I) votes but also the votes of a large number of MPs and MLAs belonging to the opposition parties. This is, in a way, a tribute to the great secular tradition nurtured with loving care by great Indian leaders from Jawaharlal Nehru to Mrs Indira Gandhi.

The historic victory vindicates the choice of the prime minister who selected Mr Zail Singh for the key constitutional position after consulting her party colleagues as well as the opposition leaders. She, in fact, took a good deal of pains in selecting a worthy successor to Mr Sanjiva Reddy. Habitual critics will, of course, never admit all that Mrs Gandhi does for the good of the country and the people at large. This is nothing but sheer intellectual dishonesty. But this kind of politics often becomes counter-productive if overplayed. The twist that certain opposition leaders gave to the presidential poll campaign was not only in bad taste but highly perverted in nature. It is a pity that Mr Justice H.R. Khanna should have fallen prey to the opposition designs.

We hope that now that Mr Zail Singh has been formally elected to the highest office in the land, the opposition leaders will put a stop to their smearing campaign and keep the president above their day-to-day petty politics. They should accept the choice of the people, as expressed through their legislators, and give him a helping hand in the discharge of the onerous constitutional tasks as head of the republic.

It is gratifying that even a person with a modest background belonging to the minority Sikh community can go up the ladder of power cutting across all caste, creed and religious barriers. Herein lies the strength of India's secular democracy. We wish Mr Zail Singh God-speed and hope that his tenure at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] will bring fresh laurels to the country.

KHAMENE'I WARNS AGAINST MACHINATIONS IN GULF

LD221408 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Excerpts] According to an IRNA report, the Muslim and alert citizens of Tehran took part in massive congregational prayers led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this morning at Tehran University on the occasion of the 'Id al-Fitr.

In his second sermon on the occasion of the 'Id al-Fitr, the Friday imam of Tehran [Khamene'i] said in reference to the Zionist crimes in Lebanon: What is taking place in Lebanon today is a poor imitation of what took place in Iran over the past 22 months. Today, the true leaders of the occupied or beleaguered Lebanon, as well as all other strugglers who pay careful attention to the situation, have concluded that the usurping Zionist invasion of Lebanon and the occupation of a great part of this country as well as the seige of Beirut are a move along the same line as that followed by the usurping Ba'thist Zionists in occupying our fraternal neighboring country of Iraq. Both international world-devouring forces share the same objective. As far as criminal America is concerned, the Islamic revolution is far more important than the Palestine issue, for the Islamic revolution is a spreading flame that has placed the enemy on the defensive.

He then added: Despite all the political and economic sanctions; despite all propaganda plots; despite all the devious measures taken so far, the Islamic revolution is gradually gaining a foothold among nations, with Islamic countries witnessing their peoples' intense predilection for and interest in the Islamic revolution and its leader. Consequently, as far as our international enemies, the big criminal powers, are concerned, this wave and flame are spreading and gaining momentum. Therefore, they feel obliged to resist it, as for many years they have managed to control the Palestinian revolutionary flame. This, as far as our global enemy is concerned, is more dangerous. All efforts are aimed at extinguishing this revolution in the region. Hence the imposed war by Iraq.

The Baghdad regime claims to be independent of all foreign powers, a claim ridiculed by these very superpowers. Today, all powers and superpowers are helping the Saddam regime. As for their satellites, they too have given as much help to the Baghdad regime as they were able to. Only the independent governments, those wishing not to be dependent on anyone -- the governments that have lost hope of winning support from the superpowers -- managed to take a correct stand toward our revolution. Needless to say, now that it has become apparent that the Iranian Government can pull its own weight, without having to depend on any government, it is possible that the supporters of the pro-'Aflaq regime might try to give it more help again. We are warning them, however, that any move in the Persian Gulf region by any power to support the aggressive Baghdad regime will meet a decisive and unceasing reaction from the Iranian people.

Fortunately, the number of Persian Gulf governments that assess events objectively is increasing. The number who knows that the region's ills are connected to the survival of the Saddamite's pro-'Aflaq regime are increasing. They have (?realized) that the Baghdad regime's objective is to impose its power by any means; that as far as we are concerned, we have always practiced what we preach. We have stated that we are unable [as heard] to impose our power -- the biggest political and military power in the region -- on any government or nation. Therefore, they know that their support of Iraq is in the interest neither of Iran or themselves; rather, it serves the interests of the superpowers.

The Friday imam of Tehran, continuing his second sermon and referring to America's avarice for the Persian Gulf region and its measures to protect its interests in view of the instability of the pro-American Saddam regime, said:

[Begin recording] Should America decide to use the Persian Gulf as a base against us by its usual and exposed tricks, they -- American authorities as well as the prominent world political and oil observers -- know that our nation has the power to respond in a crushing manner. We have experienced trouble and sufferings. We are a revolutionary nation that started from nothing. God has helped us and will continue to do so.

However, those whose jugular veins lie in the Persian Gulf; those whose plundering depends on this region; those who either through the purchase or sale of oil can satisfy their greed will not benefit by confronting a great and revolutionary nation, a nation prepared for jihad and martyrdom.

Now, as for the question of Lebanon, the Lebanese issue is first and foremost an American issue and, secondly, a Zionist one. Faced with the ever-spreading Islamic revolution wave, the Americans intended to display some sort of power, some sort of decisive stand against the region's nations and governments. Had Lebanon and Palestine -- inspired by the triumph of the Islamic revolution of Iran, the victory of our combatants in Khorramshahr and the southern borders -- remained free to continue their operations, this would have posed a great threat to Israel -- that is, to American interests in the region. Consequently, they took some preemptive measures. They gave the green light to their mercenary and vicious dog, Israel, which, taking advantage of the opportunity, invaded Lebanon.

Regrettably, a great many Islamic governments adopted a cool and indifferent attitude to the Lebanon issue. Some moved in line with the interests of America and the Zionists. As for those who adopted correct political stands, their number was very, very small.

Only the Islamic Republic of Iran took the proper step, both politically as well as on the battlefield. Our warriors went to Lebanon in order to encourage other forces from other Muslim and allied countries to join them. Even today, they are prepared to create a gigantic and powerful army in (?conjunction) with forces from other Muslim countries -- even with forces half the size of their own. The experiences gained by our Islamic revolution and the sacrifices of our young people in achieving this objective could serve as provisions for this journey, this bloody struggle.

In the political arena we have made use of every opportunity. We have stated our positions to world leaders, to Muslim leaders at large conferences, international and regional gatherings; we have explained our decisive stands. We have made available our pragmatic and constructive proposals at small and large gatherings, both openly and confidentially. Even today, we are quite prepared.

The corrupt Zionist regime's intention is to transform Palestine's resistance from an armed revolutionary resistance into an arid political movement. The leaders of the PLO must resist. We are convinced that the struggling Palestinians, those who truly believe in the slogan of Palestine in the true sense of the word -- particularly those whose hearts are illuminated with the light of reliance on God -- will resist this move.

We believe that, in confronting the faithful and struggling forces, though small in number, Israel will ultimately be defeated. Even up to now, having failed to achieve its objectives, Israel has faced defeat. However, Israel's total defeat shall come when Muslim Lebanese fighters -- the faithful who are under the Zionists' pressure and onslaught in Lebanon -- as well as the Palestinian fighters, resist this barbarous invasion and refuse to leave Beirut; when they stay in Beirut. [end recording]

MATERIALS CONCERNING RAMADAN OPERATION

Iraqi Losses Updated

LD221124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1036 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Text] According to reports received from the central Karbala' headquarters, the joint command headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, last night at 2100, in continuation of the heroic Ramadan Operation, Islam's forces began their onslaught against the heart of the enemy forces inside Iraqi territory under the codename "O lord of the age, save me." Islam's combatants were able, with this heroic onslaught against the enemy's heart, to inflict substantial damages, losses and casualties on the enemy.

Enemy losses counted so far include 372 tanks and armored personnel carriers -- among them 16 modern T-72 tanks -- destroyed, 2 enemy tank battalions completely wiped out, and more than 2,100 Ba'thist hirelings, including senior officers and army commanders, killed or wounded.

According to a senior operations officer in the south [as heard] these heroic operations were a most unprecedented type of night attack on enemy territory. In this connection we are expecting a joint army and guards' communique, which we shall bring to your attention as soon as we have received it.

Joint Commnuique 8

LD221422 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Joint communique No 8 of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the name of God, the crusher of the oppressors. Hail to the 'Id al-Fitr, the blessed 'Id of the Muslims, the end of a month of fasting and self-renewal and inward struggle. Greetings to the fasting trench fighters who wage onslaughts against the enemies of God and His people and who, with "God is great" on their lips, tread the path of God in order to neutralize one after another the plots hatched by big and small Satans and in order to establish God's religion with their martyrdoms and valor and with inspiration from God during nights of [religious] vigil, as well as by destroying and exposing the enemies of God.

Islamic nation, martyr-nurturing Iranian people: In the continuation of the full-scale Ramadan Operation -- which was inspired by the blessed name of his holiness, the lord of the ages, may God hasten his noble advent, and which aimed to defend the Islamic homeland, neutralize the plots of the world's arrogance and its hirelings and destroy a vile character like Saddam, Islam's combatants, executing a divine obligation to continue to eliminate the 22-month-old aggression against our Islamic homeland by the Ba'thist-Zionist regime in Iraq, have delivered their devastating blows against the duped Saddamist forces of aggression.

The murderous enemy of Islam and its mercenary hireling, Saddam, who can see his destruction in the continuation of these operations, have tried, by assembling large forces of armored equipment against Islam's combatants and by carrying out many counteroffensives, to stop this divine and legitimate action of the Islamic combatants. However, the iron determination and infidel-smashing will of the combative sons of Islam, with their extensive 'Id al-Fitr eve operations, which were carried out at 2100 under the codename "O lord of the ages, save me," delivered yet another grave blow to the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime.

In unprecedented and extensive operations, which aimed to purge and destroy enemy forces in a 250-square-km area, a large section of armored enemy forces, which included many tanks and armored personnel carriers, was destroyed inside Iraqi territory, and Islam's combatants were able to destroy 85 enemy tanks and armored personnel carriers on the northern axis of Zayd post, 94 tanks and personnel carriers on the western axis and 193 tanks and personnel carriers on the southern axis. As a result, destroyed enemy tanks and personnel carriers total 372, which includes 16 advanced T-72 tanks.

In these victorious operations, the combative warriors of Islam were able to inflict heavy blows against the 14th Mechanized Brigade, 43d Armored Brigade and 35th Armored Brigade of Iraq's 9th Division, which had only recently been reequipped with new and advanced tanks. In addition, the warriors of the army of Islam, these offspring of blood and martyrdom, were able in the 'Id al-Fitr eve operations to inflict enormous losses on the 6th and 12th Armored Brigades and the 8th Mechanized Brigade of the 3d Division. They were further able to rout the (Yafa) tank battalion of the 42d Armored Brigade of the 10th Division and the Zayn al-Quds tank battalion of the 55th Armored Brigade of the 5th Division.

The number of enemy killed or wounded in these operations amounted to more than 2,100, including 1 enemy brigade commander and a large number of destroyed-battalion commanders. A number of duped Saddamists were also taken prisoner by the combatants of Islam. So far 250 of them have been evacuated to the rear. These include several officers and a large number of NCO's.

We congratulate the lord of the ages, may God hasten his noble advent; his rightful deputy, the great Khomeyni; and the martyr-nurturing Iranian nation on these great victories on the blessed day of the 'Id al-Fitr. With hope of God's assistance and favorable prayers by the imam and the nation, the combatants of Islam shall traverse the path to the liberation of Jerusalem through Imam Hoseyn's Karbala' so that, hand in hand with the people of Iraq liberated from the claws of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime, we may achieve our great Islamic mission of liberating Jerusalem.

With hope for the Islamic combatants' final victory over blasphemy and the liberation of Jerusalem from the claws of the occupying Zionism. With the assistance of God, victory is near.

[Signed] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Red Alert in Bushehr

GF221431 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1400 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] This is Bushehr, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dear listeners: According to the latest reports, a red alert condition has been declared for Bushehr. Please make sure that you comply with all the safety regulations for this condition. [sound of siren]

Alert Downgraded

GF221456 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1451 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] This is Bushehr, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dear listeners: As of this moment we announce the yellow alert condition for Bushehr. We ask all you dear listeners to comply with all safety regulations related to this condition. [sound of siren]

Joint Staff Communique 989

LD221832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jul 82

[Communique No 989 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Victorious combatants of Islam: May your fighting be triumphant and may your victories be blessed and be a cause for pride since on the eve of the happy 'Id al-Fitr you have brought our Islamic homeland's grateful and committed Islamic nation the glad tidings of conquest and succour; and by your destruction and wiping out of the Saddamist blasphemers you have gladdened the hearts of those fasting during the blessed month of Ramadan and those traversing the path of God by carrying out a phase of the Ramadan Operation and by scoring victory.

Saluting the pure souls of the victory-creating martyrs on the battlefronts of good against evil, we wish to bring to your attention the operations and acts of self-sacrifice carried out by the combatants on the country's western fronts:

Throughout the past 24 hours, battle and exchange of fire continued on most of the fronts in the western parts of the country between the mighty forces of Islam and the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries; fighting was fiercest on the Meymak front. On this front, our ground forces' heavy-artillery fire prevented all movement and traffic by the enemy forces on their supply axes and resulted in the destruction of some of their positions and the annihilation of a number of Saddamist servicemen.

In another part of the western front, thanks to the heavy-weapon fire opened by Islam's combatants, some of the enemy's oil installations were set ablaze and several of their fuel tankers were also destroyed. Other combatant groups of Islam, while consolidating their positions in the areas under their control, continue to clear the region of minefields.

On the Qasr-e Shirin and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts and the border heights in Gilan-e Gharb, the mighty forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by opening artillery and heavy-weapon fire on the enemy positions and fortifications and while silencing the enemy's fire, inflicted appreciable blows on Iraq's Ba'thist mercenaries and, by destroying several trenches and a number of enemy armored vehicles, either killed or wounded a number of the servicemen of blasphemy.

Also, thanks to the destruction of several enemy engineering vehicles, they disrupted the enemy's trench-digging operations and those preparing their positions.

The exchange of fire on the Marivan front continued, with the combatants of Islam enjoying remarkable superiority. The self-sacrificing servicemen of the army and the Islamic Guards Corps, enjoying full coordination in carrying out penetration operations, inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy and by the grace of God they returned to their bases without having suffered any casualties.

On the Piranshah front, the self-sacrificing and mighty servicemen of the ground forces deprived the Saddamist mercenaries of all movement and of the ability to open fire.

The gendarmerie combatants on the Ilam front retaliated against fire opened by the Saddamist forces and, while guarding their defensive positions and opening fire on the positions of the Iraqi Ba'thist aggressive mercenaries, inflicted losses and damage on the enemy's servicemen and military equipment.

Saddam's criminal mercenaries, in order to avenge the blows suffered by their forces during (?close) engagements on the fronts, aimed their long-range artillery at the city of Abadan and thereby martyred 2 of our dear compatriots in this region and wounded another 20.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Ahvaz Air Raid Warning

GF230725 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 0701 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] The siren you are about to hear is that of the red alert condition. There is definite danger of an air raid. [sound of siren]

TEHRAN: INVASION TO ESTABLISH RULE OF JUSTICE

LD230422 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0007 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The victorious Ramadan Operation, launched under the codename "O lord of the ages, save me," which inflicted misery and disgrace on blasphemy, forcing it to flee, is soon -- after the downfall of the Ba'thist's regime -- going to bring back honor and dignity to Iraq thus paving the way for the liberation of Jerusalem and an all-out confrontation with the Zionist occupiers.

The operations conducted by the defenders of the Islamic Republic inside Iraqi territory together with the considerable victories achieved by the able combatants of Islam has caused growing concern and fear among the world's imperialist and Zionist circles over the goals of the Islamic revolution of Iran to such an extent that Begin, the terrorist prime minister of the Jerusalem occupying regime, warned the Islamic Republic of Iran with threatening remarks about so-called serious consequences.

At the same time, the masters of world blasphemy, the reactionaries of the region and the imperialist media have branded, in an orchestrated and coordinated tune, the righteous Iraqi territory as destablizing Middle East security, an action against peace, and called on Iran not to continue its liberating holy war. This was said in light of the fact that during nearly 2 years of savage Iraqi-Zionist aggression against Iran, we heard not one word of concern for peace and stability of the region. Now, however, that we are nearing Saddam's downfall, now that his existence is threatened by the Islamic Republic of Iran, such remarks fill the air. Such deception and false concern for stability in the Middle East is only aimed at encouraging once again the reactionaries of the region to throw their support behind Saddam. This deception at the same time is indicative of the depth of the oppressors' fear about the potential threat to world blasphemy posed by the Islamic revolution.

Because the Islamic Republic of Iran and the heroic and martyr-nurturing nation of Islam have embarked upon the righteous task of eliminating blasphemy and atheism and establishing the rule of right and justice, we will continue without fear our sacred task until Jerusalem is liberated from the yoke of the Zionist occupiers.

No doubt the terriorist Begin and criminals such as Saddam, who have embarked upon war with the Islamic Republic of Iran by relying only on weapons and material goods, will not be able to confront the will of a nation which, by reliance on the Almighty's eternal might, is striving for the realization of the rule of the oppressed and annihilation of the oppressors. The history of mankind as well as the Iraqi-imposed war have proved that in a confrontation between right and wrong, the latter has no chance of victory although it may seize the opportunity to commit aggression, bloodshed and the most savage crimes that man can imagine.

Let us examine Saddam's tricks aimed at justifying his crimes. In a so-called military communique, Saddam impudently says that in retaliation for the Iranian bombings of Iraq's civilian and industrial installations, Iraqi forces will take counteractions. Such false remarks by the Iraqi tyrant are being uttered at a time when we are witnessing every day -- day and night -- the shelling of Iranian frontier towns by attacking aircraft of the Iraqi mercenary regime.

No doubt, Saddam's remarks aim to justify the crimes he has committed during the war. He wishfully believes that such justification can help him consolidate his criminal regime in order to pursue even greater crimes. Is there anyone who really believes that the Islamic Republic of Iran has bombed Iraqi civilian targets and murdered innocent people? Is there any open-minded person who believes that after 2 years of criminal and murderous acts, the destruction of military, civilian and industrial objects, the shelling of the frontier towns of Ilam, Bakhtaran and Hamadan by the Ba'thists of Iraq, imperialism's lackies could be regarded as the guardians of peace in the region? Is there anyone who can regard the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has been firmly supporting the rule of the deprived and the oppressed and which has no goals other than to liberate the oppressed people of Iraq from the yoke of the Ba'thists and Jerusalem from the yoke of the Zionists, as being against peace in the region?

Indeed, during the first few days of the war with Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to show its might, sent 140 fighter aircraft over Iraqi airspace without dropping even a single bomb on the oppressed people of Iraq, while offering sacrifices in order to encourage the growth of liberal aspirations among the people of Iraq to counter Iraq's Zionist elements.

BANI-SADR CALLS GULF CONFLICT 'AMERICAN WAR'

NC211522 Paris AFP in English 1443 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Paris, July 21 (AFP) -- Former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr has described the Gulf war as "an American war" forming part of "the American offensive" in the region, according to an interview with Mr Bani-Sadr in today's issue of the weekly LES NOUVELLES LITTERAIRES.

Iranian spiritual guide Ayatollah Khomeyni "has fallen into the American trap," Mr Bani-Sadr said.

"Egypt and Saudi Arabia, with the blessing of (President Ronald) Reagan," he added, "are in the process of forming the central political axis of that part of the world, at a time when Iran, Iraq and Syria are in political disarray, the steadfastness front dislocated, and the Palestinians considerably weakened since the Israeli attack."

Mr Bani-Sadr, who lives in exile in France, said that "the Americans are winning all the way down the line."

"The parity of the dollar with the European currencies," he said, "changed with the launching of the Gulf war. Saudi Arabia having compensated for the lack of (oil) exports by Iraq and Iran, the U.S. was thus able resume control of the oil market and consolidate the hegemony of the dollar, which has become a refuge currency.

"If Khomeyni wants to sell oil, he has to do so at a low price."

MOJAHEDIN: 260 SECRET EXECUTIONS 26 MAY

NC211912 Paris AFP in English 1828 GMT 21 Jul 82

[Text] Paris, July 21 (AFP) -- A total of 260 persons were executed secretly last May 26 in Tehran's Evin Prison, according to a communique issued here today by the Iranian Marxist-Leninist People's Mojahedin.

The victims included Giti Naziri, an Iranian radio and television woman executive who sympathised with the People's Mojahedin, the communique said.

It added that last Thursday 11 Iranian soldiers, including an officer of the Iranian Army's politburo, were captured at Sar Dasht, Kordestan, during a joint attack by militants of the Kordestan Democratic Party and the People's Mojahedin.

GUARDS CLASH WITH PEYKAR MEMBERS IN ESFAHAN

GF161855 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Jul 82

[Text] Reports from Esfahan say that on Tuesday and Wednesday, bloody clashes took place between Khomeyni's guards and members of the leftist Peykar group, as a result of which members of both antagonistic groups were killed or injured.

The mullahs' news media, (?including) the government newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, have claimed that (?the group) was destroyed and its installations razed. The government newspaper has refrained from giving the exact figures of the casualties.

NVOI CRITICIZES REGIME FOR BANNING UNIONS, BOOKS

GF211249 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 20 July carried two commentaries.

The first, entitled "Do Not Appease Idolatrous and Properous Classes," said the imam has repeatedly reminded state authorities that the laborers form the backbone of Iran's revolution. Even after the success of the revolution, it is the laborer who, hand in hand with the toiler, establishes a solid and stable foundation in defending the aims of the revolution in the Islamic Republic with continuous sacrifice, devotion, martyrdom and initiative in production, even if he may be deprived of his rights. The imam says: Go and visit the battlefields. You will never see any capitalists on the fronts, only the laborer and soldier fighting against U.S. elements.

On the work fronts it is the laborer working in every field who, through his round-the-clock efforts, produces the country's requirements. By doing all this, the toiling class expects its legal and lawful rights, and for securing and safeguarding these rights, appropriate measures must be taken. Thus we cannot say that we are at the peak of the revolution or that some minigroup elements have drawn our attention or that the war has tied up our hands and we cannot pay attention and concentrate on the matter.

The fact is that some exploiters and deceitful groups under Islamic cover are trying to plunder the toilers' productive rights, but this time in a modern way, with a new color and clothes, using the old methods.

These groups in the former sinister regime of Aryamehr plundered the people and still are plundering them. These groups, previously by riding in the most modern cars and living the most modern residential areas and places, were plundering the people. Now, by growing beards and having beads in their hands, they are doing the same thing. This time they are enjoying the support of pseudo-clergy groups.

There are some organizations and authorities who completely ignore the imam's decrees and instructions of high-ranking officials and ignore the Islamic Constitution. They are not willing to officially recognize the lawful rights of the workers. It is strange indeed that the Ministry of Labor, which is the sole organization for encouraging labor and defending the rights of the workers, instead issues orders to dissolve labor and workers syndicates and declares unions unlawful. The Ministry of Labor said in an announcement that as the Islamic councils are formed, the activities of the labor unions are not officially recognized. Is this not contrary to the spirit of revolution and Constitution of Islamic Republic of Iran?

The second commentary, entitled "Friends Worse Than Enemies," stated that heavy blows have been damaging the gains of the revolution. If an end is not put to these blows, our revolution will face heavy and unforgettable losses and dangers. Monopolization and blind fanaticism like a cancer will destroy the people's revolution and its gains for the Iranian nation against imperialism.

A few days ago we noticed an announcement from the Ministry of Education which produced a list of books to be banned, either in teaching in the schools or in libraries or bookstores. These books were considered harmful by the ministry. The books banned and forbidden for circulation generally deal with modern world science, aerospace sciences and zoology. Is this action not contrary to the revolution's gains and against the spirit of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran? We are convinced that our listeners will raise the question: Who are these officials serving?

When fanatical opportunists and monopolizers set the libraries and bookstores on fire, Imam Khomeyni strongly protested the barbaric actions and stated that nobody has the right to set fire to libraries and bookstores. The Constitution of the Islamic Republic protects scientific organizations from plunder. The SAVAK of the condemned shah also banned many masterpeices of the greatest writers and poets such as Sadeq Hedayat, Maxim Gorkiy and hundreds of others.

Our nation wants an end to the domination of plunderers who pretend that they are the friends of the nation. In reality they are the most stubborn enemies of the nation.

AFGHAN, SOVIET CLASHES IN ESLAM QAL'EH REPORTED

LD191102 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 19 Jul 82

[Text] [city indistinct], July 18th, IRNA -- The Afghan Muslim combatants demolished two Soviet tanks and personnel carriers and killed its crew members near the Eslam Qal'eh-Chah Gonbad route in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, in a clash between the Afghan Muslim mujahidin and the Afghanistan Government forces in Eslam Qal'eh one government soldier was killed and the local police chief was wounded.

According to this report, the Soviet forces in retaliation set fire to the farmers' wheat harvest in the region.

BRIEFS

WHEAT BURNED IN BORUJERD -- While Muslim farmers work very hard day and night to make Iran self-sufficient, the counterrevolutionaries cannot see Iran as a self-sufficient country, so they burned four stacks of wheat [in Borujerd]. These stacks were the result of one years' work of these farmers. Investigation has started to find these criminals. [Text] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Jul 82 GF]